

# Invasive Plant Removal

*Organized by the WSSC*



## Project Goal

To remove invasive weeds in a part of the Patuxent River on the Eastern border of Montgomery County so that native plants provide habitat, food and shelter for birds, dragon flies and butterflies.

## Planning

Have to determine the date, get permission, and publicity.

## Timeline for Planning

- **One Week or More Before:** About 3 to 4 hours of planning by a person on staff. Preparation also includes watching gloves and making sure there are enough garden snippers, making and posting a sign, making sure there are enough community service hours forms and photo releases.
- **On the day of the project:** Check in, train volunteers, talk about ticks and about WSSC and about possible careers since many of the volunteers are looking for service hours.

## How Many Volunteers?

Can use anywhere from 2 to 50.

## Time Commitment

Always takes place on a Saturday or Sunday, for about 3 hours.

## Expenses

One person's staff time and printing.

## Publicity

Send out community notices to local newspapers. Also have a Facebook and Twitter page and Meet Up page.

## Challenges

- Ensuring that volunteers arrive on time
- Keeping volunteers excited throughout the three hours, so explain to them that they are making a difference and have them focus on what they are doing in ways that it means something to them.
- Doing this project can require a lot of motivation.

## Results

- More wildflowers come up where invasive weeds have been removed
- More native trees come up where invasive weeds have been removed
- Where trees were struggling because invasive weeds were strangling them, the trees have started budding and leafing again.
- Their volunteer makes a difference not only to themselves and all the others who are enjoying the wildlife along the Patuxent River.

## Tips/Key Steps:

Ask where volunteers are from and where they go to school if they are students. Recognize that it's a two way street, with volunteers teaching the coordinator as well as the coordinator teaching the volunteers.

### Points of Interest

- Be open to learning from volunteers, in this case learning flowers and birds

